

23 OCT 1951

MACHYNLLETH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
(INCLUDING PENNAL CIVIL PARISH)

THE REPORT

- of -

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- and -

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

- for -

THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 1950.

SANITARY INSPECTOR:

D. BRYN JONES, Cert. S.I.J.B.

Penrallt Street,

Machynlleth.

Telephone 35.

MEDICAL OFFICER:

J. C. ASHTON M.B.Ch.B.

Bronwylfa,

Machynlleth,

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To the Chairman and Members of
the Machynlleth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report
for the year ending 31st December 1950.

The acreage included in the Rural District remains unchanged as does also the population in number and occupations. The majority of the people are engaged in agricultural and pastoral pursuits but there is a strong drift of men from the land to forestry whilst the younger women leave the villages to become clerks in offices and waitresses in catering houses. There does not appear to be much inclination towards nursing in spite of appeals by the voluntary organizations - St. John and British Red Cross. Higher earnings are mainly responsible for what changes there are but it cannot be doubted that the drabness of rural life is an important contributory factor.

The health of the community has been remarkably good. Mild outbreaks of measles and whooping cough are known to have appeared in scattered villages but the absence of official notifications suggests that the medical attention was not considered necessary by parents.

Tuberculosis appears to be on the wane - Four cases only were notified. The Tuberculosis Officer reports that no record of death from this disease came to hand in 1950.

Water supplies for domestic drinking purposes is as scarce as ever for every other purpose a brook passes through every village and requires only harnessing to be made useful to the inhabitants. Such as they are, the springs and wells are satisfactory. All were submitted to periodical tests for bacterial content.

Refuse disposal and treatment are as unsatisfactory as ever. Difficulty is experienced, in finding in this spacious scantily populated agricultural country, anywhere suitable for "dumping" house refuse.

Closet accommodation is still primitive.

See report of Sanitary Inspector on houses and living accommodation.

The trend of the population is away from the remote hamlet to villages which are supplied with electricity and served by road transport.

VITAL STATISTICS for year ending 31st December 1950.

Number of live births

	Males	Females
Legitimate	26	24
Illegitimate	4	2

Birth rate per 1000 of population of 3204 - 15.556.

Still births 3 or 52 per 1000 of total births

Number of deaths 53.

Deaths per 1000 of population 16.

Deaths of infants under 12 months old 2.

Heart conditions accounted for 13 deaths.

Neoplasma " " 11 deaths.

There were no maternal deaths nor notifications of
puerperal sepsis.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

The Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse is situated at Machynlleth and the meat for the area is supplied from this depot. A small quantity of canned and bottled foodstuffs was condemned.

ICE - CREAM MANUFACTURE

There are no premises within the rural district where Ice Cream is manufactured.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

There are no shops excepting small privately owned ones adjacent to the residence and these are of a type which do not require any action under the Act.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Dry closets are the type which are prevalent in the area. Septics have been installed in the case of newly-built houses.

REFUSE REMOVAL

Most of the district is scavenged by the contract method. The system is not satisfactory as the vehicles employed are not of a proper type.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Council has a number of small separate schemes, which whilst being unsatisfactory in quantity in one or two cases, are satisfactory in quality. Some 30 bacteriological samples were taken during the year of which 6 were for chemical purposes.

HOUSING

Number of houses erected by the Council during the year	NIL
Number in course of erection by the Council	4
Number of houses on approved tender but work not commenced	NIL
Number of Dwelling houses inspected under Housing Acts.	19
Number of Dwelling houses classified as unfit for human habitation	11
Number of unfit dwellings dealt with informally and major reconstruction	
Schemes accepted during the year	NIL
Number of Statutory Notices served under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1946	NIL
Number of reconditioning schemes approved under Section 11 Housing Act 1936 after Service of Notice	
Number of reconditioning schemes disapproved after service of Notice under Section 11 Housing Act 1936.	NIL

INFORMAL NOTICES

Number Served	11
Number complied with	7

STATUTORY NOTICES (P.H. ACTS)

Number Served	NIL
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CO/SHEDS AND DAIRIES

Number of new registrations	NIL
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Number of cases during the year enquired into	NIL
Number of Houses involved	NIL
Number of Houses Disinfected	NIL

OFFENSIVE TRADES

Number in district	NIL
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LODGING HOUSES

Number in district	NIL
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CAMPING SITES

Number in district	NIL
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BEDBUG INFESTATIONS

Cases reported	NIL
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RAG FLOCK ACT

Number of premises where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.	NIL
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VISITS

Total number of visits to various works, water supplies, houses Housing Sites, inspection of nuisances etc., etc., carried out by Sanitary Inspector during the year.
(Approx) 620.

NUISANCES

Number of Inspections made	14
Number of Informal Notices	8
Number Complied with	8

I am, Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. C. ASHTON.

Medical Officer of Health.

